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# CIVIL AIR PATROL HERITAGE TOOLBOOK

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by

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## **Disclaimer**

The views expressed in this academic research paper are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the US government or the Department of Defense.

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Lt Col Leonard Blascovich, CAP - CAP National Historian

Air Force Historical Research Library Faculty

### ***Abstract***

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a voluntary organization and the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Its members join for reasons of patriotism and a desire to help others. CAP was founded during the increasing US WWII involvement and its history of service during that time is rich. However, a void in CAP history and heritage exists today. Presently, scattered pictures, newspaper articles, and a few video clips complete the CAP heritage library. No single source document or place exists that tells the story from the beginning roots to present-day CAP. Several sources contain bits and pieces, but not everything. The project team contacted both the CAP National Headquarters staff and some of the 53,000 CAP members. During this ToolBook construction, articles in the *Civil Air Patrol News* introduced CAP members to the ToolBook project and requested assistance from their personal recollections and memorabilia. The Air Force Historical Research Library has an extensive collection of historic CAP documents, categorized and donated by CAP Colonel Lester Hopper. Current CAP activities are well documented, but in disparate locations. The available information is dry and not easily accessible to all.

The CAP Heritage ToolBook research team compiled these sources into one comprehensive, user-friendly format, capturing this rich heritage for generations to come. This multi-media presentation integrates video, photographs, and animation to bring the Civil Air Patrol heritage alive!

## **Chapter 1**

### **CAP Heritage ToolBook Description**

A 'ToolBook' may be a new concept for many people.

#### **What is a ToolBook?**

A ToolBook is a computer-based multi-media presentation. The CAP ToolBook is designed to be distributed via CD-ROM to interested parties. Once you have the disk, you can either run the ToolBook from the computer's CD-ROM drive, or you can load the ToolBook onto the computer's hard drive.

#### **What computer capability do you need to operate the ToolBook?**

The ToolBook can be run on a 486-PC, a Pentium PC, or a MAC PowerPC with a conversion package. The ToolBook requires a lot of disk space if copied to the hard drive because of the photographs and video. This is because the ToolBook incorporates photographs and video. The CAP ToolBook requires a CD-ROM drive and a multi-media card to be properly viewed. Also, the more RAM memory on the host computer, the better. You need no special software to operate the ToolBook; it is all contained on the CD-ROM.

## **How much do you need to know about computers?**

The CAP ToolBook was designed to be user-friendly. Labeled keys allow you to navigate forward, jump to chapters like using a bookmark, back-up one page, or return to the start of the volume. At the beginning of the ToolBook, an animated tutorial with self-guiding instructions is included.

## **Design and Flow of the Civil Air Patrol ToolBook**

### **Copyright and Disclaimer Information**

This ToolBook was produced by Air Force members, for the use of Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters.

### **The Tutorial**

To aid the new user, the CAP ToolBook contains a self-guiding, animated tutorial. It will teach you how to navigate through the pages and how to use 'hotwords'. This automated tutorial takes about three minutes to complete. You may replay the tutorial at any time.

### **Navigation Aids**

Each page contains buttons to represent turning the page forward or backward, flipping to the start of the section or flipping to the library. You may 'side-navigate' while in the ToolBook by using 'hotword' buttons to go detailed information about a topic. When you are finished with the 'hotword' page, you can only go to your primary page, so you can never get lost! When you want to exit, the 'exit' button is located on the library page.



## The ToolBook Volumes

There are five volumes in the CAP ToolBook. The basic format is shown below and discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

### CAP Heritage ToolBook

| CREATION<br>OF CAP | WWII YEARS              | MISSIONS               | CAP<br>ORGANIZATION       | HALL OF<br>FAME         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| History            | WWII CAP<br>Missions    | Emergency<br>Services  | Pre-War/Post-War          | Commanders              |
| Origins            | WWII Picture<br>Gallery | Cadet Programs         | CAP-USAF                  | Hall of Honor           |
| Leaders            | WWII Aircraft<br>Hanger | Aerospace<br>Education | Structure                 | Historical<br>Media     |
| Documents          | WWII CAP<br>Results     |                        | CAP Units<br><br>Uniforms | Heritage Video<br>Clips |

## **Chapter 2**

### **CAP Heritage ToolBook Volumes**

The CAP Heritage ToolBook contains five volumes. Each volume contains a unique combination of text, video, and photographs to present the information in an interactive, educational, and motivational format.

#### **Volume I—Creation of CAP**

Known as the ‘Flying Minutemen,’ Civil Air Patrol was founded by aviation enthusiasts. They worried that America’s almost certain entry into World War II would curtail civilian aviation. These enthusiasts also realized they possessed unique talents and capabilities for augmenting the United States’ war effort. CAP’s history, beginning organizational structure, leaders, and historical documents are described in this volume. The history describes the events leading up to the day CAP was established -- 1 December 1941. The organization structure outlines CAP’s affiliation with the Office of Civil Defense and ultimate transfer to the US War Department. CAP’s founding leaders are identified, as well as historic documents, which authorized CAP within the US government structure.

## **Volume II—World War II Years**

Civil Air Patrol members ‘bombed’ US cities and German submarines! Small bombs and depth charges were strapped under 2-seater airplanes performing coastal patrol missions off the East Coast. Using bombs of flour, sawdust, and paper, CAP pilots alerted civilian communities of the dangers WWII presented the home front. ‘Black-out’ procedures around vital installations were tested. Leaflets requesting for donations of scrap metal and purchase of war bonds were dropped. Waterways were patrolled for saboteurs. The US-Mexican border was patrolled for spies! Most missions started as ‘experiments’, to see if civilian pilots and their small aircraft could indeed perform requested mission. In every case, the answer was ‘YES’! This volume covers the CAP missions during WWII. The picture gallery displays numerous pictures of WWII scenes and CAP personnel carrying out their duties and CAP WWII aircraft. This volume ends with a summary of CAP statistics during WWII.

## **Volume III—Missions**

Today, CAP has three main missions—Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, and Aerospace Education. Each mission has a variety of programs at the national, regional, state, and local levels. The Emergency Services chapter describes search and rescue, disaster relief, illegal drug patrol, emergency airlift missions, and CAP communications capability. The Cadet Programs chapter looks at membership requirements and program advancement, as well as squadron, wing, and national-level activities. The Aerospace Education chapter defines both the internal and external CAP programs.

## **Volume IV—CAP Organization**

CAP has a unique history. Today, as it was historically, CAP is organized along military lines. Different uniforms and patches were produced to bond units, identify missions, and single out the organization from active-duty military units and other volunteer organizations. When CAP started, there was a state-level organization known as a ‘wing’ in each of the 48 states. Today, 52 wings exist—one in each state plus Washington D. C. and Puerto Rico. Each state has continued the WWII tradition and designed its own wing patch. This volume displays the CAP organization, uniforms, ribbons, and patches in the early years and today.

## **Volume V—Hall of Fame**

CAP attracted many leaders and heroes. Its members flew many airplanes. This volume brings to life past and present CAP National Commanders. It pays tribute to the CAP Hall of Honor recipients. It highlights historical media, such as the ‘Smilin Jack’ syndicated comic strip, CAP songs, and other CAP illustrations. Finally, the Hall of Fame presents CAP videos which capture parades, aviation, and ballooning scenes.

## Chapter 3

### Future Research Tips

There are several leads, provided through both research and personal contact, not included in this ToolBook because of limited time, lack of copyright release, or other reasons. CAP desires this ToolBook to be a living product, updated periodically by either the CAP HQ staff or by future ACSC groups:

Air Force Historical Research Library (AFHRL) contains to begin each state's heritage construction.

Zack Mosley was a WWII-era CAP pilot and a published cartoonist. His daughter, Jill Mosley Sandlow, owns the copyright for most of his work. She did not return any contact attempts by the initial ToolBook group. She is working with editor of the *CAP News* to start re-running her father's comics. CAP HQ can provide her phone number and address.

The Smithsonian Museum contains a CAP exhibit. It might be worth digitizing this collection for the Hall of Fame volume.

The Air and Space Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB OH contains a CAP exhibit. It might be worth digitizing this collection of the Hall of Fame volume.

Mr Lee Ragan, in Texas, has an extensive collection of CAP patches. He has written two books on CAP books, both available from the CAP bookstore. Digitizing these

original patches for ToolBook presentation would be nice. CAP HQ can provide his address and phone number.

This ToolBook could be converted to HTML for uploading onto the web site.

Very few CAP members responded to our request for personal stories or pictures. Additional ads could be run.

CAP Headquarters has discussed starting a program to gather memorabilia from older CAP members and the descendants of former CAP members. Valuable information will be lost forever if a collection program is delayed much longer. If successful, this program would yield great information for ToolBook incorporation.

## *Glossary*

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AAF    | Army Air Force                          |
| ACSC   | Air Command and Staff College           |
| AF     | Air Force                               |
| AFHRL  | Air Force Historical Research Library   |
| AU     | Air University                          |
| CAP    | Civil Air Patrol                        |
| CD-ROM | Computer Disk - Read Often Memory       |
| CP     | Coastal Patrol                          |
| DOD    | Department of Defense                   |
| HQ     | Headquarters                            |
| HTLM   | Hyper-Text Markup Language              |
| LP     | Liaison Patrol (Southern Border Patrol) |
| US     | United States                           |
| USAF   | United States Air Force                 |
| WWII   | World War II                            |

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